

Town of Panton
Town Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
6:00 p.m. – Panton Town Offices

Board:

Eric Carter
Beth Tarallo
John Viskup

Administration:

Rick Cloutier
Sue Torrey

Guests:

Deb Brace	Bob DeGraaf
Joan DeGraaf	Barb Fleming
Joe Kuhn	

Call to Order: Chair John Viskup called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. September 8th minutes were approved as written on a motion by Eric Carter, seconded by Beth Tarallo. Minutes of September 22nd were approved with the following amendment: Moderator Bill Clark called for a straw vote for those in favor of applying for the grant. The vote was unanimous to go forward with the grant. Motion by Beth Tarallo to accept, seconded by Eric. Carter. Joe Kuhn complimented that Board on their completeness of the meeting minutes and Chair Viskup thanked Sue Torrey.

Road Foreman Report: Rick advised that the repair to Arnold Bay road will cost approximately \$2,500.00. Joe Kuhn commented that he believed skim coating will be adequate, that Panton doesn't need a Cadillac road. The Board explained that to prevent future problems it's better to repair it correctly. Joe agreed the price wasn't too high but believes Panton Road requires more work. Joe expressed concern about cost to the taxpayers. Eric explained that he will work with Rick to put a road plan together so there is a long term plan to follow for repairs. Chair Viskup noted for the record that Stove Pipe City is not being ignored and work will commence in the spring (April/May) but this is not the time of year to begin work. Rick presented the Board with the final expense for the Hopkins Road project which came in \$14k under budget. Rick commented that he spoke with Beth concerning a winter plowing policy for Panton and gave the Board a copy of Ferrisburgh's policy to review. Short discussion ensued of the possible liability to the town. Eric expressed concern about the hours the road crew puts in behind the wheel and suggested a policy. Rick commented that he and the helper rotate hours. It was agreed a policy should be established. Advised that the older truck needs front tires and State pricing wasn't as low as local dealers were (\$421.each vs. \$285. each). Better Backroad has a \$10,000.00 grant available and Rick would like to apply to remedy the deep ditches on Panton Road. Rick and Beth will be meeting with the person from Better Backroad, Tuesday, October 20 to go over grant requirements. Joe Kuhn commented it would be nice to have a four (4) foot edge between the road and the ditch which would also be a benefit for a bike path. Rick advised that he was called out Thursday evening to clean up mud and debris along Panton Road near Whispering Pines which came from Vorsteveld's farm equipment. He added that when he arrived the Vorstevelds were cleaning the road. On Sunday he was called out again for the same problem in front of the Visser farm on Panton Road. He commented that this is an ongoing problem even after speaking with the Vissers. As no one was home Rick used Panton's backhoe to clean the road. Discussion on charging the resident if this problem continues. The Selectboard will send a letter to all involved. Discussion ensued on other avenues of notification. Rick asked permission to put up snow fence and the Board agreed this was all right. Deb Brace commented that perhaps Rick should stay for the entire meeting in case questions come up. Discussion ensued and Beth mentioned that Rick sometimes must wait around to give his report. As there weren't any questions, Rick was dismissed.

Public Comment: Bob & Joan DeGraaf advised the Board that they received a penalty for a delinquent tax payment but thought they had paid the correct amount on time. Discussed ensued on this particular situation which is due to a sale and closing after tax bills were issued. After further discussion it was decided the problem was due to timing of the closing and Delinquent Tax Collection Barb Fleming agreed that this should not have been considered delinquent and waived the penalty.

Old Business: Martial Arts Class – Board will advise Matt Provencher to check with the Panton Baptist Church to use for classes and to check back with Panton in a couple years.

Grant Opportunities – Beth mentioned the Champlain Byway as a possible means of obtaining grant money with fewer strings attached. The Panton Planning Commission will look into this possibility.

Deb Brace brought up the unresolved issue of Russet's unpaid dog fines. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided to invite the Russets to the next Selectboard meeting November 10, 2009 in the hope of resolving the issue amicably.

Vorsteveld Zoning Violations – The Board will schedule a meeting with attorney K. Neuse inviting Zoning Administrator Ed Hanson to attend to continue discussion on the next steps to take regarding the Vorsteveld violations. Beth will contact attorney Neuse and Ed Hanson.

New Business: Beth advised that she received information on possible grant opportunities via the EPA for efficiency type grants. Presently it isn't known how much funding is available however, in preparation they are telling municipalities to have an efficiency audit done through Efficiency Vermont. Beth will gather more information.

Financials/Correspondence: Check warrants were reviewed and signed. Sue advised the Board that she received information on digitizing town records which would be a nominal cost to the town (\$.015 per page). She asked that the Board consider this in the future and the Board agreed this was a good idea and will consider the possibility at budget time. Joe Kuhn advised the Board that he forwarded Panton's delinquent tax information to our State Representatives and Senators advising them that he would like to see the school receive their money when we receive it and not before. Joe Kuhn commented that he would like to see the road foreman better plan road tasks and added that he doesn't believe the town requires two people to accomplish the work. He added that he still would like to see a Town Manager to help with oversight perhaps one manager for a few small towns.

At 7:48 p.m. Eric Carter made the motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Beth Tarallo, and inviting Sue Torrey and Joe Kuhn to attend. Motion by Beth Tarallo at 7:52 p.m. to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Eric Carter. No action was taken.

Chair Viskup recessed the meeting at 8:00 p.m. New meeting to be scheduled at a later date dependant on attorney Neuse's schedule.

Respectfully,

Susan Torrey
Clerk